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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Rapporteur: Ms. Cecilia MACKENNA (Chile)

ST. HELENA

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

1. The Subcommittee considered the Territory of St. Helena at its 674th, 675th and 687th meetings, on 12 and 14 April and 7 June 1994.

2. During its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee had before it the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on the Territory (A/AC.109/1182).

3. The Subcommittee conducted a thorough review of the political, economic and social conditions in the Territory in the light of the information contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat.

4. The Subcommittee noted with regret that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in its deliberations. In this connection, and in view of the efforts deployed by the Special Committee to streamline and rationalize its work, the Subcommittee once again appeals to the United Kingdom to reconsider its position and to resume its participation in the work of the Special Committee.

B. Adoption of the report

5. Having carefully examined the situation in St. Helena, the Subcommittee adopted by consensus a draft decision on the Territory at its 687th meeting, on 7 June 1994, for consideration by the Special Committee (see para. 7 below).

6. The Subcommittee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

C. Draft decision

7. The Subcommittee submits the following draft decision concerning St. Helena for action by the Special Committee:

"The Special Committee, having examined the question of St. Helena, reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of St. Helena to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. The Committee urges the administering Power to continue to take, in consultation with the Legislative Council and other representatives of the people of St. Helena, all necessary steps to ensure the speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territory and, in that connection, reaffirms the importance of promoting an awareness among the people of St. Helena of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination. The Committee reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to continue, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to strengthen the economy, to encourage local initiative and enterprise and to increase its assistance to diversification programmes with the aim of improving the general welfare of the community, including the employment situation in the Territory. The Committee urges the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of St. Helena to own and dispose of the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources. The Committee reaffirms that continued development assistance from the administering Power, together with any assistance that the international community might be able to provide, constitutes an important means of developing the economic potential of the Territory and of enhancing the capacity of its people to realize fully the goals set forth in the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Committee, in that connection, welcomes the assistance rendered by the United Nations Development Programme and invites other organizations of the United Nations system to assist in the development of the Territory. The continued presence of military facilities in the Territory prompts the Committee, on the basis of previous United Nations resolutions and decisions concerning military bases and installations in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, to urge the administering Power to take measures to avoid the involvement of the Territory in any action that could endanger peace and security in neighbouring States. The Committee considers that the possibility of dispatching a United Nations visiting mission to St. Helena at an appropriate time should be kept under review, and decides to continue to examine the question of St. Helena at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session."